GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2422
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
SAFETY OF DAMS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the Dams in the country which are more than ten years old, State- wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the safety of these Dams;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) As per `National Register of Large Dams-2002`, there are 4013 large dams in India which are constructed upto 1998. The State-wise list giving the number of such dams in each State is enclosed as Annex I.

(b) Yes Sir. Since mainly State Governments are the owners of irrigation and multipurpose project, the responsibility of dam safety largely rests with them. The role of Central Government is confined to giving advisory services with regard to safety and rehabilitation of such dams. As per the `Dam Safety Procedure` laid down by the Standing Committee for Dam Safety in India, all large dams (irrespective of their age) are required to be inspected twice a year during pre and post monsoon periods. These inspections are to be carried out by the `Dam Safety Organization` of respective states/ owners of the dams; and the consolidated information is to be submitted in the form of annual reports to `Dam Safety Monitoring Directorate` of Central Water Commission(CWC). As on date, the consolidated reports for the years 2007-08 have been received from 8 States and from NHPC and BBMB.

(c) From the consolidated reports made available to CWC by state governments/ owners of dam, the major deficiencies observed in case of large dams are as under:

i) longitudinal cracks on top of dams,

ii) seepage of water through dam body,

iii) Sweating of d/s slope.

iv) Chocking of drainage holes,

v) erosion and damage of concrete in buckets stilling basins/ end-seal wall etc,

vi) scouring d/s of bucket and end seal,

vii) Erosion/ damage to apron floor,

viii) Opening of joints of abutments, transition walls, end-seal walls etc.

(d) At the level of Central Government, a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, CWC was constituted in August 1982. The Standing Committee finalized the Dam Safety Procedures in July 1986, for periodic Inspection and monitoring of safety status of large dams. This Committee was reconstituted as the National Committee, on Dam Safety (NCDS) in October 1987. The main function of the committee is to monitor the implementation of action points on Dam Safety Procedures at the State level. The Committee also oversees dam safety activities in various States/Organizations and suggests improvements to bring these In line with the latest state-of-the-art consistent with the Indian conditions. It acts as a forum for exchange of views on techniques adopted for remedial measures for dams in distress by the dam owners.